

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 517

Introduced by Senator Florez

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 19601.01 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to horse racing, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 517, as amended, Florez. Horse racing: thoroughbred associations or fairs: wager deductions.

Existing law authorizes a thoroughbred association or fair, at the joint request of the association or fair and the ~~horseman's~~ *horsemen's* organization and subject to approval by the California Horse Racing Board, to deduct from the parimutuel pool, for any type of wager, an amount of 10% to 25%, inclusive, of the total amount handled for the meeting of the thoroughbred association or fair that accepts the wager.

This bill would instead authorize the deduction of an amount in that range upon the filing of a specified written notice with the board specifying the percentage to be deducted and would provide that the percentage is to remain in effect until the filing of a subsequent notice unless otherwise specified in the notice. The bill would authorize any distribution from the amount deducted to be modified or redirected upon the filing with the board of a written notice, as specified.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ~~majority~~ ^{2/3}. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 19601.01 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

19601.01. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a thoroughbred association or fair, upon the filing of a written notice with the board specifying the percentage to be deducted, may deduct from the total amount handled in the parimutuel pool for any type of wager an amount of not less than 10 percent nor more than 25 percent. The written notice shall include the written agreement of the thoroughbred association or fair and the horsemen's organization for the meeting of the thoroughbred association or fair accepting the wager. The established percentage to be deducted shall remain in effect until the filing of a subsequent notice unless otherwise specified in the notice. The amount deducted shall be distributed as prescribed in this chapter, provided that any distribution required pursuant to this chapter, except for amounts payable for the support of the board, may be modified or redirected upon the filing with the board of a written notice that is authorized and signed by the organization representing each entity affected by the modification or redirection, including, but not limited to, horsemen's organizations, racing associations, and fairs.

SEC. 2. *This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

In order to allow greater flexibility to direct funds generated by wagering deductions to areas with the greatest economic benefit for the horse racing industry and to ensure the economic future and stability of the horse racing industry, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.